

Draft Public Involvement Advice for Central Plateau Cleanup Principles

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Background

The Tri-Party Agencies are developing principles that will guide the cleanup of Hanford's Central Plateau. The Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) believes that the broader public should be involved in the development of these principles.

Hanford's Central Plateau is planned to be the final footprint of the Hanford Site. The Central Plateau contains high-level nuclear waste in underground tanks, over one-million gallons of leaked high-level nuclear waste in the vadose zone, processing plants, burial grounds, large plumes of contaminated groundwater, the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, and the Waste Treatment Plant(flesh out list). It is critical that the principles guiding the cleanup of the Central Plateau protect future generations. Further, all principles/policies/decisions should reflect and include recognition and adherence of Tribal Treaty right as mandated by the U S Constitution, Article VI, "All treaties....supreme law of the land".

The Hanford Advisory Board appreciates the opportunity to help develop the principles, and believes the broader public should be involved as well, to ensure regional agreement on the path forward.

Advice

1. The Board advises the Tri-Party Agencies to involve the public in the development of the Central Plateau Cleanup Principles by:
 - creating a Central Plateau Task Force, similar to the Future Site Uses Working Group;
 - holding regional public meetings to share the draft principles and solicit input;
 - creating opportunities for providing input electronically via email and social media.
2. The Board advises the Tri-Party Agencies to create an informed public as they solicit input by using tools such as the Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement to discuss risk assessment.
3. The Board advises the TPA Agencies to work with the Board, Tribes, and stakeholders to plan regional public involvement efforts to ensure that the public is provided with:
 - Maps and materials describing the contaminated sites on the Central Plateau and how use of those sites would be restricted and monitored over time
 - An understandable risk assessment explaining the health risks from a full range of exposure scenarios, including Tribal use of land, groundwater and other resources for each area of the Central Plateau over various time periods.

4. The Board advises the TPA Agencies to wait to adopt the Central Plateau Cleanup Principles until after robust regional public education, input, and involvement.